

**Town of Camden**  
**Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee Agenda (CEDAC)**

Monday, October 24, 2011, 5:30 PM  
Washington St. Conference Room

**Meeting Attendees and Notes**

Attendees

- CEDAC and Liaison: Peter Gross (Chair), Brian Hodges, Pat Finnigan, Kipp Wright, Lowrie Sargent, Pete Brown, Ellis Cohn, Dan Bookham, Joanne Campbell and John Arnold

Notes

1. Minutes of 9/26/11 meeting were approved.
2. Peter introduced the new Town Manager, Pat Finnigan. Pat has had development experience in several of her prior jobs including Auburn and Portland
3. Joanne briefed the attendees on the history and work of the Housing Committee. The Housing Committee has been successful in advocating for housing developments in Camden that serve the workforce. Several housing developments have been completed. A separate non-profit organization manages these developments.

Joanne then discussed some of the issues involved with fostering the development of workforce housing in Camden. These issues include community resistance, lack of eligible clients, high cost of real estate and lack of volunteers to serve on the Housing Committee.

The CEDAC discussed several issues surrounding workforce housing situation and realized that housing is tied in to regional development, lack of jobs and a low median income coupled with high real estate costs.

The Housing Committee is currently considering its future. The CEDAC suggested that the Housing Committee develop a wish list of what it would like to see in this area and bring it to the CEDAC. The Housing Committee will consider this at its next meeting in December.

4. Brian provided the CEDAC with a letter in support of Maine Coast Economic Alliance Draft being included in the Knox County budget. The CEDAC voted to support the letter and Peter will sign it.

5. Brian provided the attendees with a list of downtown items that could or should be considered for allocation of the \$50,000 in TIF funds that have been collected to date. Brian suggested that the CEDAC consider putting this money toward renovation of the third floor of the Opera House. This could make the Opera House more attractive to more events. Kipp suggested that at least part of the money may go to locating a group that would market the Opera house. Such a group could suggest ways how the money might best be spent and perhaps even provide some funding.

The attendees extensively discussed all ideas. Pat work with the Opera House staff to better refine cost figures and ideas. She will also look into having the Opera House committee meet with CEDAC. Peter also asked that CEDAC members consider some of the other items on the list that Brian provided.

6. Brian has applied for a Project Canopy grant to lower the costs of trees purchased for right of ways and town property.

Midcoast Magnet has submitted a grant application for Creative Communities = Economic Development, on behalf of our region. A decision will be made by the Maine Arts Commission by December.

Brian received a good response from the Downtown Plan RFQ. Eight entities responded. The selection committee is meeting with one tomorrow.

7. Public Comment or Questions on Agenda items: None
8. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 7:20 PM – Next meeting November 14, 2011 @ 5:30 PM